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Approved For Release 2007/02/08 : CIA-RDP83B01027R000200020008-6

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TOP SECRET [redacted]

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Washington, D. C. 20505

14 November 1980

**MORI review(s)  
completed.**

ALERT MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM FOR: National Security Council

SUBJECT: Iran-Iraq and Danger of a Wider War

Recent attacks by Iranian aircraft on Kuwaiti border installations raise the possibility that Tehran is now prepared to widen the war in order to stop Arab aid to Iraq. I believe the greatest danger--should Iran continue this course of action--is the possibility that Kuwaiti or other Arab oil facilities will become targets for Iranian attacks.



STANSFIELD TURNER

Attachment [redacted]

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TOP SECRET [redacted]

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TOP SECRET [REDACTED]

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

14 November 1980

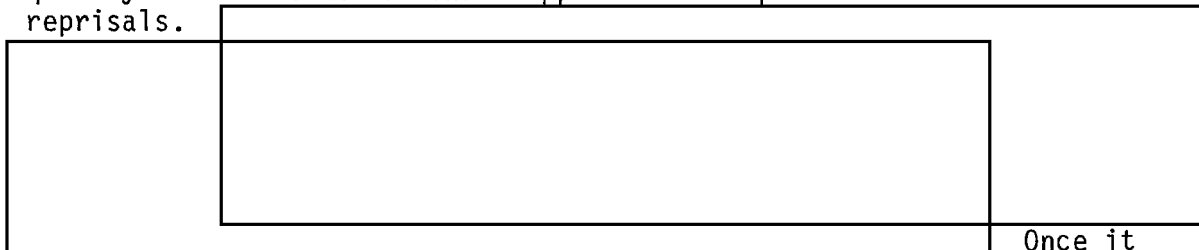
ALERT MEMORANDUM\*

IRAN-IRAQ: Danger of a Wider War

*The Iranian airstrikes near Kuwaiti border installations on 12 November and possibly 5 November have increased the danger of a wider war in the Persian Gulf. While it is not certain that these strikes were intended actually to hit targets within Kuwait, their purpose was clearly to intimidate the Kuwaitis. Tehran may now be willing to use selective military action against Kuwait and possibly other gulf states to discourage them from aiding Baghdad.*



The airstrikes apparently were intended to discourage Kuwait from continuing its current transshipment of Iraqi goods. Tehran has frequently warned the Arabs that support for Iraq will lead to Iranian reprisals.

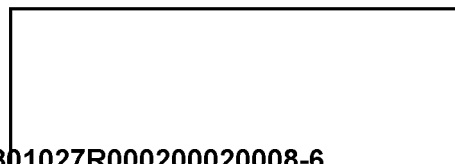


Once it became clear that Iraq would not achieve a quick victory, the Kuwaitis and other gulf countries began trying to play down their support for Iraq, but both Iraqi pressure and Arab nationalist sentiment compel them to continue providing substantial aid to Baghdad.

*\*The Alert Memorandum is an interagency publication issued by the Director of Central Intelligence on behalf of the Intelligence Community. Its purpose is to ensure that senior policymakers are aware of impending potential developments that may have serious implications for US interests. It is not a prediction that these developments will occur. This memorandum has been coordinated at the working level with CIA, DIA, NSA, State/INR, and Army.*



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25X1 ; If Tehran decides to widen the war by escalating its attacks on Kuwait or striking other gulf states, the United States could become more directly involved in the conflict. US allies in the region, including Saudi Arabia, would very likely request additional security assistance from the United States. [REDACTED]

25X1 There is also a danger that US forces in the area could be attacked--either deliberately or in error--by the Iranians. Tehran has already accused the United States of supplying intelligence collected by the AWACS aircraft to Iraq. Additionally, Iranian officials [REDACTED] have reported that the US naval facility in Bahrain is aiding Baghdad. Tehran also believes that the United States has concluded a secret agreement with the United Arab Emirates requiring American assistance in the event of an Iranian attack. [REDACTED]

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If the gulf Arabs ignore Tehran's warnings, Iran could launch further strikes, perhaps against oil installations. The Iranian Air Force retains a capability to do this all along the gulf littoral. Iran's more aggressive military attacks on Iraqi oil installations during the past week have already made the risk of another explosion in world oil prices much greater. Given the indefinite suspension of exports from both Iran and Iraq, the market has no further room to absorb even small additional interruption of supplies from the other gulf countries. [REDACTED]

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25X1 The Soviets are concerned that a wider war would lead to closer US cooperation with the area's conservative Arab states and an expanded US military presence. The Soviets probably would therefore give additional support to efforts already under way to end the conflict. Moscow would also likely renew its proposal for joint discussions on the security of international maritime and oil traffic. [REDACTED]

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